

## Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 052121  
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /053 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:VDC

APPROVED BY EA/P:MSMITH

-----100607Z 089582 /14

R 091711Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

COGARD

GOVGUAM

TREASURY

UNCLAS STATE 052121

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 9 EA PRESS SUMMARY

### 1. INDOCHINA

LOCAL ELECTIONS OF PEOPLE'S COUNCILS/PEOPLE'S CMTEs AT ALL  
LEVELS WILL BE HELD THROUGHOUT VN LATER THIS YR (REUTER  
HK).

### 2. AUSTRALIA

WHEAT BOARD ANNOUNCED TUES THAT GOA HAS SIGNED AGREEMENT  
TO SELL PRC 2 MILLION TONS WHEAT BETWEEN NOW/NEXT JAN;  
SALE WORTH ABOUT 220 MILLION DOLS (AP, NYT). BOARD CHAIR-  
MAN SAYS THIS SALE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OVER RECENT CHINESE-  
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PAGE 02 STATE 052121

AUSSIE WHEAT PURCHASES (JOC).

CSM'S VICKERS (SYDNEY) REPORTS GREAT DEBATE UNDER WAY OVER  
ISSUE OF EXPANDING AUSSIE URANIUM INDUSTRY/EXPORTS. SAYS  
DISPUTE CENTERS ON CAUTIOUS GO-AHEAD FOR FURTHER EXPLOITA-  
TION OF COUNTRY'S VAST URANIUM RESERVES, GIVEN BY GOVT-  
APPOINTED FOX COMMISSION'S INQUIRY INTO URANIUM INDUSTRY.

### 3. KOREA

CHESHIRE/BABCOCK (WP) REPORT 2 "PALATIAL" HOMES/3 LUXURY CARS/OTHER PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNED BY TONGSUN PARK SEIZED BY IRS IN APPARENT EFFORT KEEP ASSETS FROM BEING SOLD/ MOVED OUT OF US. ACTION TAKEN DUE USG'S CLAIM PARK OWES NEARLY 4.5 MILLION DOLS IN BACK TAXES, SAID UNRELATED TO INVESTIGATION ALLEGATIONS THAT PARK PLAYED KEY ROLE IN ROKG'S INFLUENCE-BUYING SCHEME.

SEIDEN (SUN) NOTES SK'S RURAL AREAS BEGIN PROSPER AFTER CENTURIES POVERTY. FINDS ROKG CAMPAIGN TO TURN PEASANTS INTO MODERN FARMERS AT LEAST PARTLY RESPONSIBLE. MOVE ALSO INTENDED DRUM UP RURAL SUPPORT FOR GOVT/INCREASE PRODUCTION TO CUT DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED GRAIN. DESCRIBES SOME IMPROVEMENTS. ADDS SOME OBSERVERS STILL SKEPTICAL OF RURAL STATISTICS THAT SHOW "GREAT LEAP FORWARD," BUT SEEMS CLEAR THAT "COUNTRY COUSINS" FINALLY CATCHING UP W/URBAN RELATIVES.

#### 4. JAPAN

SOME 700 DELEGATES FROM 21 COUNTRIES/INTL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY/OEC/EC ATTENDING 3-DAY TOKYO CONF ON NUKE ENERGY. REPS INCL THOSE FROM US/JAPAN/FRG/UK, WILL DISCUSS EX-CHANGE TECHNICAL INFO/REPROCESSING NUKE FUEL (REUTER TOKYO).

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PAGE 03 STATE 052121

JAPAN/IRAN SIGN AGREEMENT GIVING IRAN OPTION SUPPLY CRUDE OIL THRU PLANNED PALAU TRANSSHIPMENT PORT, ENABLING JAPAN RECEIVE 20 PCT ITS OIL IN DIRECT DEAL WHICH BYPASSES INTL OIL COS. PALAU SITE CHOSEN DUE ITS PROXIMITY NEW SUPER-TANKER ROUTE FROM MIDEAST TO JAPAN/NATURAL DEEP-WATER PORTS. JAPANESE CONSORTIUM'S US CONSULTANT SAYS "ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT" REPORT STILL MUST BE PRESENTED USG IN ORDER GET APPROVAL FOR BUILDING PALAU PORT (REUTER'S BLACKBURN, 3/8).

ACCORDING BANK OF JAPAN QUARTERLY ECON SURVEY, PAUSE IN COUNTRY'S ECON RECOVERY LAST YR THREATENS BECOME PROLONGED. SURVEY 504 MAJOR JAPANESE FIRMS SHOWS '77 PRODUCTION/EXPORTS/SALES EXPECTED INCREASE LESS THAN WAS ESTIMATED IN '76 (REUTER TOKYO 3/8).

JAPANESE AUTO MFRS REVISING UPWARD EXPORT PLANS IN VIEW ACTIVE OVERSEAS DEMAND, ESPEC IN N AMER. TOYOTA/HONDA ALSO MAY RAISE RETAIL PRICES EXPORTED AUTOS IF YEN CONTINUES AT PRESENT RATE AGAINST US DOL (REUTER TOKYO).

JOC'S CULLISON CITES PVT INFO FROM BANK OF JAPAN OFFICIAL THAT COUNTRY'S OFFICIAL DISCOUNT RATE MAY BE REDUCED TO 6 PCT PER ANNUM ON SATURDAY. 0ANK'S POLICY BOARD PROBABLY

WILL REACH DECISION DURING EXTRAORDINARY MTG FRIDAY.

DURING 5-DAY JAPAN VISIT, GATT DIRECTOR-GENRL LONG EXPRESSED HOPES TO FUKUDA THAT "TOKYO ROUND" TRADE NEGOTS COULD BE CONCLUDED THIS YR/VERY EARLY NEXT YR TO REVIVE WORLD TRADE. LONG SAID MULTILATERAL TRADE TALKS COULD PROVE ANSWER TO CONTINUING GLOBAL RECESSION. FUKUDA REPORTEDLY PROMISED LONG HE WOULD PERSONALLY SEEK COOPERATION OF OTHER INDUSTRIALLY-ADVANCED NATIONS WHEN HE SEES CARTER THIS MO (CULLISON, JOC).

BANKRUPTCIES IN JAPAN TOTAL 1,363 CASES/COMBINED DEBTS UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 052121

674 MILLION DOLS IN FEB. FIGURES HIGHEST FOR ANY FEB IN COUNTRY'S HISTORY. POOR SALES/DEFICITS IN OPNS/INABILITY COLLECT BILLS CITED AS MAIN REASONS FOR FAILURES (JOC).

MIE SHIPYARD--BUILDER LIGHT CARGO VESSELS--HAS FAILED PAY 1.524-MIL-DOLS IN BILLS/SEEKING REFINANCING TO AVERT BANKRUPTCY. INDUSTRY SOURCES SAY SEVERAL OTHER MEDIUM/SMALL SHIPYARDS IN FINANCIAL TROUBLE, TOTAL INDUSTRY WILL BE HIT HARD DURING FY '77 (UPI, BALT NA).

THARP (WSJ) DOES ARTICLE ON FOM FIRMS' TROUBLES IN ADAPTING PRODUCTS TO JAPANESE MARKET. MOST FIND JAPAN ONE OF MOST DIFFICULT EXPORTS MARKETS IN WORLD, BUT WHEN CRACKED, OFFERS RICH POTENTIAL RETURN.

JAPANESE EXPRESS PASSENGER TRAIN RAN INTO DEBRIS FROM LANDSLIDE 95 MILES N OF TOKYO 3/8; LEAST 103 PASSENGERS INJURED, NO DEATHS REPORTED (UPI NYT; WP).

NYT'S MALCOLM (OSAKA) DOES STORY/FOTO LAYOUT ON JAPAN'S NEW, LAVISH UNDERGROUND SHOPPING MALLS.

##### 5. CHINA

UPI (HK) REPORTS NOTHING CHANGES SINCE MAO 35 YEARS AGO LIKENED STEREOTYPED PARTY WRITING TO PLAYING "LUTE TO A COW." NOW "GANG OF FOUR" BEING BLAMED FOR HAVING "DISRUPTED FINE TRADITIONS OF THE PARTY'S JOURNALISM"/AND HAVING "RUINED THE PARTY PAPERS' REPUTATION." SAYS WITH GANG GONE, PEOPLE COMPLAINING, "PEOPLE'S DAILY" MAY BE READY FOLLOW MAO'S ADVICE, REDUCE LONG-WINDED/STEREOTYPED WRITING (BALT NA 3/8).

NCNA REPORTS POEMS IN MEMORY LATE PREMIER CHOU EN LAI, WHICH RECEIVED BY MEDIA SHORTLY AFTER HIS DEATH BUT BANNED BY "GANG OF FOUR," ARE NOW BEING PUBLISHED IN LATEST UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 052121

EDITION "POETRY" (REUTER HK).

IN PEKING, INTL WORKINGMEN'S DAY WOMEN ONLY AFFAIR; MADAME CHU TEH ACCUSED "GANG OF FOUR" OF SABOTAGING WOMEN'S MOVEMENT (REUTER PEKING 3/8). NCNA REPORTS WOMEN OIL FIELD WORKERS UP FROM 300 IN EARLY 60'S TO MORE THAN 30,000 (REUTER HK 3/8).

AFTER RECEIVING REPORT US TREASURY INITIATING INVESTIGATION ON LEATHER IMPORTS FROM TAIWAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR TAIWAN'S FOREIGN TRADE BOARD (SHA0) DENIED GROC SUBSIDIZED EXPORT US BOUND LEATHER APPAREL (REUTER TAIPEI).

#### 6. GENERAL

ITC RULES DOMESTIC COLOR TV INDUSTRY BEING HARMED BY IMPORTS. RULING CLEARS WAY FOR SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRY, THAT MAY INCL GOVT LOANS/SPECIAL BENEFITS/TAXING OR LIMITING IMPORTS. COLOR TV INDUSTRY HAD ASKED RELIEF FROM IMPORTS ON GROUNDS STEADILY LOSING MKT TO SETS FROM JAPAN/TAIWAN/OTHER COUNTRIES (AP, NYT).

ITC VOTE MAY LEAD TO CURB ON TV SETS FROM JAPAN/TAIWAN/SK. ITC WILL MEET AGAIN TO VOTE ON PROPOSED "REMEDY" FOR IMPORT PROBLEM; HIGHER TARIFFS/QUOTAS PROBABLY WILL BE RECOMMENDED (WSJ). ROWE (WP) REPORTS LOBBYISTS FOR DOMESTIC MAKERS/UNIONS PLEASED, WILL BE "DISAPPOINTED" IF ITC DOES NOT RECOMMEND IMPORT QUOTAS TO WH. SAYS JAPANESE EMB OFFICIAL STATED GOJ EXPECTED ITC WOULD FIND IMPORTS HURTING DOMESTIC TV INDUSTRY, ADDED "WE ARE ANXIOUS TO FOLLOW" ITC'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

LABOR/MNGMNT REPS OF US SHOE INDUSTRY URGE PRES APPROVE ITC RECOMMENDATION THAT COMBINATION TARIFFS/QUOTAS BE IMPOSED ON NON-RUBBER IMPORTED FOOTWEAR (HINKLE, WP). HI ADMIN OFFICIALS INCLINING RECOMMEND PRES PROVIDE MORE IMPORT UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 06 STATE 052121

PROTECTION FOR SHOE INDUSTRY (LAWRENCE, JOC).

ARTICLE ON BOLIVIA (OMANG, WP) MENTIONS RECENT MTG LA PAZ OF 4 TOP TIN SUPPLIERS MALAYSIA/INDONESIA/THAILAND/BOLIVIA, INTL TIN CONF MTG THIS MO.

#### 7. TRAVEL CURBS

AT 3/9 NEWS CONFERENCE, CARTER SAID ADMIN ON 3/18 WILL LIFT RESTRICTIONS ON PASSPORT TRAVEL TO VN/NK/CAMBODIA/CUBA (REUTER).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

8. THAILAND

IN BANGKOK, ANDELMAN (NYT) REPORTS RTG HAS DECIDED FILE CRIMINAL CHARGES VS 143 STUDENTS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN BLOODY CLASHES THAT PRECEDED MIL COUP LAST OCT. NOTES THANIN GOVT STILL SENSITIVE TO CHARGES IT IS MIL DICTATORSHIP, THO AT SAME TIME IS STILL DOMINATED BY MIL ELITE. SAYS SENSITIVITY OF REGIME RE MIL ORIGNS/POL INSTABILITY HELPS EXPLAIN WHY GOVT FEELS NECESSITY PROSECUTE SOME STUDENTS/CHARGE THEM W/COMMUNISM. BELIEVES DESPITE DENIALS CLEAR THAT SERIOUS DISSENSION EXISTS BETW GOVT/MIL ELEMENTS, WITHIN MIL, AND, ACCORDING SOME OFFICIALS, BETW GOVT/ROYAL PALACE OVER WAY GOVT HAS DEALT W/SEVERAL SENSITIVE ISSUES.

9. BURMA

LESLIE (LAT 3/6) REPORTS DRAMATIC TURN AS GUB AGREES BORROW 39 MILLION DOLS FROM SYNDICATE LED BY CHASE MANHATTEN TO BUILD PIPELINE/BUY 5 OIL DRILLING RIGS. NOTES THIS IS 1ST MAJOR FOREIGN-FINANCED COMML TRANSACTION IN 14 YRS; STRONGEST INDICATION YET THAT "DISASTROUS" UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 07 STATE 052121

ISOLATIONIST/SOCIALIST ECON POLICIES BEING MODIFIED SUBSTANTIALLY. ADDS LOAN TO BE PAID OFF THRU EXPORTS CRUDE OIL.

9. KOREA

CENTER FOR NATL SECURITY STUDIES ASSOCIATE JOHN MARKS (LAT 3/6) SEES APPARENT DOUBLE-STANDARD BETW USG DUBBING CIA PAYMENTS MADE TO FON LEADERS--INCL SYNGMAN RHEE-- "PROPER," WHILE KOREAN PAYMENTS TO CONGRESSMEN DEEMED ILLEGAL/IMPROPER. REMARKS VANCE'S OBJECTION TO COMPARISON BETW KOREAN PAYMENTS IN US/CIA PAYMENTS ABROAD SEEMS IMPLY SECRET PAYMENTS PERMITTED ONLY TO THOSE OFFICIALS WHO HAVE THEIR GOVT'S PERMISSION. ASKS IF PAYMENTS TO HUSSEIN JUSTIFIED ON GROUNDS THEY SERVED STRENGTHEN US' MIDEAST POSITION/US SECURITY, "CAN ANYONE DOUBT" KOREAN OFFICIALS BELIEVED HAVING US CONGRESSMEN IN "COVERT DEBT" WOULD BENEFIT SK'S SECURITY? MONEY TO HUSSEIN ALSO JUSTIFIED ON GROUNDS IT ALLOWED CIA USE JORDAN AS BASE FOR

FAVORABLY INFLUENCING MIDEAST EVENTS; STATES PARK REGIME ALSO INTENDED THAT MONEY SPENT ON CONGRESSMEN WOULD MAKE EVENTS IN WASHINGTON FAVORABLE TO SEOUL. STATES DOJ NOW SEEKING ROKG COOPERATION IN PROBING KCIA'S US ACTIVITIES, BUT NOTES IF ANY FON COUNTRY WHERE CIA ACTIVE ASKED BIMILAR COOPERATION, US "UNQUESTIONABLY WOULD OPPOSE"

REVEALING ANY DETAILS. ADDS VANCE'S DISTINCTION BETW  
GOVT-TO-GOVT OPNS AND THOSE INVOLVING INDIVIDUALS LEAVES  
LOOPHOLES, AS THERE IS NO GUARANTEE PAYMENTS TO HUSSEIN  
WEREN'T USED FOR PERSONAL GAIN MUCH AS CONGRESSMEN USED  
KOREAN PAYMENTS. CONCLUDES PRES MISTAKEN IF HE THINKS  
AMCITS WILLING CONDONE PAYMENTS TO US OFFICIALS FROM  
FON SPIES/SHOULD ACT ACCORDINGLY OVERSEAS.

TERHORST (CHITRIB) DISCUSSES ADMIN'S HUMAN RTS RHETORIC.  
NOTES PUBLIC TOLD "WE MUST BE PRAGMATIC" WHEN AID REQUESTS  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 052121

REVIEWED FOR COUNTRIES WHICH TRAMPLE HUMAN RTS, AND THUS  
SK DEALT NO AID CUTS. SAYS HOW BE MORAL/PRAGMATIC AT  
SAME TIME HAS ALWAYS BEEN PROBLEM FOR PRESIDENTS, BUT  
SEES NO POINT IN MORALIZING ABOUT HUMAN RTS OVERSEAS  
IF, IN FINAL ANALYSIS, IS "JUST EMPTY WORDS."

10. CHINA

BEECHER (GLOBE) COMMENTS ON CHANGED DOS ATMOSPHERE/OPERA  
TION SINCE HAK REPLACED BY VANCE. ADDS HAK/VANCE TRIED  
OUTDO EACH OTHER IN MUTUAL ADMIRATION DURING TRANSITION  
PERIOD, BUT VANCE INSISTENCE ON CHECKING WRITTEN RECORD  
(FOLLOWING KRAFT REPORT SECRET US-PRC AGREEMENT) SUGGESTS  
"LESS THAN FULL CONFIDENCE IN PREDECESSOR'S WORD."

"TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL"'S MUNRO (PEKING) SAYS ALTHO  
TENG STILL IN LIMBO, POL POWER IN PRC THESE DAYS SETTLING  
IN HANDS OF OLD WARRIORS AND MEN SHARING LONG, CLOSE  
TIES W/TENG. MOST PIVOTAL PERHAPS IS HSU SHIH-YU, WHO  
ACTED AS TENG'S "GODFATHER" DURING RADICAL RESURGENCE  
AND PLAYED CRUCIAL ROLE IN OCT OVERTHROW OF RADICALS  
(CSM).

SUN'S WU (HK) SEES PRC'S LAUNCHING MASS CAMPAIGN/INVOKING  
'63 MAO INJUNCTION TO "LEARN OF LEI FENG" TIED TO REGIME  
EFFORTS END ANARCHIC TRENDS REPORTEDLY ENCOURAGED BY  
"GANG OF FOUR." EDIT ON 14TH ANNIVERSARY MAO INJUNCTION  
ADMONISHES POPULACE RETURN TO WORK WITH HIGH SENSE OF  
DUTY/ DISCIPLINE OF MODEL SOLDIER LEI FENG (WHO DIED  
15 YRS AGO).

FROM PEKING, MUNRO REPORTS PRC CURRENT WHEAT PURCHASE  
GREATEST SINCE '74; 5 MIL TONS AT COST 550 MIL DOLS ALREADY

CONTRACTED. ARTICLE NOTES USDA CHINA SPECIALIST THEORIZES  
PURCHASES PERHAPS DUE TO PROBLEMS W/RAILROADS/ INADEQUATE  
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 052121

'76 HARVEST/EARTHQUAKE-RELATED PROBLEMS/POL UNREST IN COUNTRYSIDE; BUT ADDS NO SPECIFIC SUPPORTING EVIDENCE FOR LATTER THEORY (WP, 3/8).

DAVID ELSNER (WSJ) WRITES THAT PRC'S REDUCED EXPORT OF CAMEL'S HAIR/CASHMERE PUZZLING. MFR SAYS COMES AT TIME CONSUMERS INCREASINGLY TURNING TO WOOL/ OTHER NATURAL FIBERS. CHINESE SILENCE ON MATTER PROMPTS SPECULATION SHORTAGES PERHAPS DELIBERATE HOLDBACK IN HOPES DRIVING UP WORLD PRICE/ EARTHQUAKE RESULTED IN TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS/JUST FEWER ANIMALS PROVIDE HAIR.

11. GENERAL

LESLIE (LAT HK 3/6) NOTES LACK RESPONSE TO "PUNITIVE" ACTIONS VS W JOURNALISTS TAKEN RECENTLY BY 4 SEA GOVTS: IN NOV, PHILS REFUSED AP'S ZEITLIN RE-ENTRY VISA; "NEWSWEEK" BANNED IN INDONESIA SINCE NOV ARTICLE ON CORRUPTION THERE, WHILE LOCAL STRINGER RESIGNED TO AVOID THREAT BEING EXPELLED; IN JAN, FE ECON REV'S HE KWON-PING ARRESTED IN SINGAPORE, FINED FOR REVEALING MIL INFO; FE ECON REV'S PEAGAM EXPELLED FROM THAILAND AFTER WRITING OF POSSIBLE COUP; PHILS TOOK ACTION LAST MO VS WIDEMAN OF WP/ABC/FE ECON REV, W/HEARING GOING ON, DEPORTATION "THOUGHT PROBABLE." LESLIE SAYS SILENCE W GOVTS UNDERLINES BOTH DIFFICULTY ADOPTING CONSISTENT POLICY ON PRESS FREEDOM/RELATIVE LACK IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO EVENTS IN INVOLVED COUNTRIES. ALSO SEES ACTION REFLECTING STIFFEN;NGATTITUDE TOWARD W PRESS PREVALENT IN 3RD WORLD.

IN CAMBRIDGE, MASS, INTERVIEW, EX-CIA DIR BUSH CHARGED SK EFFORTS INFLUENCE US CONGRESSMEN "UNDERINVESTIGATED," SHOULD BE PURSUED VIGOROUSLY. FORMER ENVOY TO PEKING ADDED THAT SEES MOVEMENT IN PRC THAT MAKES HIM FEEL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT US RELS THERE. ALSO SAID CONCERNED RE SINGAPORE/INDONESIA/THAILAND, WHILE CAMBODIA "RIPPED ASUNDER" UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 10 STATE 052121

BY NEW GOVT; BUT THERE IS NO THREAT TO WORLD PEACE IN SEA (NYGAN, GLOBE).  
VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS SUMMARIES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Drafter:** EA/P:STAFF:VDC  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
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**To:** ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS MOSCOW MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009